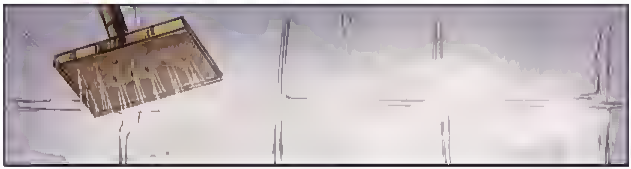
UNDER THE AEGIS

BY VIMEODIEE



DID IT REALLY MEAN
NOTHING TO YOU?

WHAT--HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN--?
WE ALMOST DIE TODAY AND THAT'S THE QUESTION YOU'RE ASKING?!

BECAUSE IT MEANT SOMETHING TO *ME*.

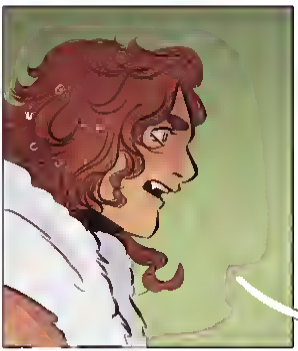
AND AFTER TODAY I DO NOT WISH THAT YOU BE IGNORANT OF THIS.

IT WAS JUST A KISS!

TODAY WAS A TOTAL ROLLERCOASTER OF EMOTION THAT YOU'RE HANDLING ALL WRONG. WHAT HAPPENED WITH US WAS NO BIG DEAL. GET OVER IT ALREADY!

STOP *LYING*. WHY ARE YOU LYING?

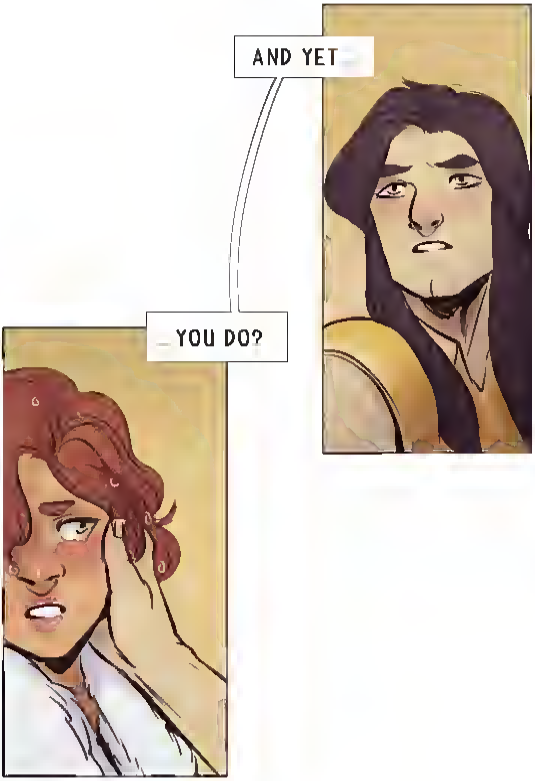
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO GAIN FROM DECEIVING ME, FROM DECEIVING YOURSELF?



BECAUSE!

YOU'RE TEMPLAR! AND I'M FENN...!

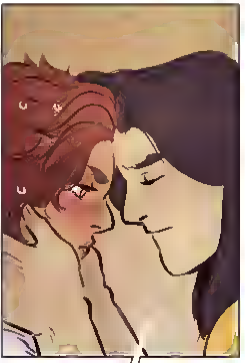
YOU'RE NOT *SUPPOSED* TO LIKE ME... AND I'M... NOT SUPPOSED TO LIKE YOU...


AND YET
YOU DO?

UUUUGH!

YES! WHATEVER. JUST SHUT UP ALREADY

...YOU ARE SO STUBBORN



YOU TOLERATE LIVING WITH A MOONBORN, YET YOU CANNOT EVEN--

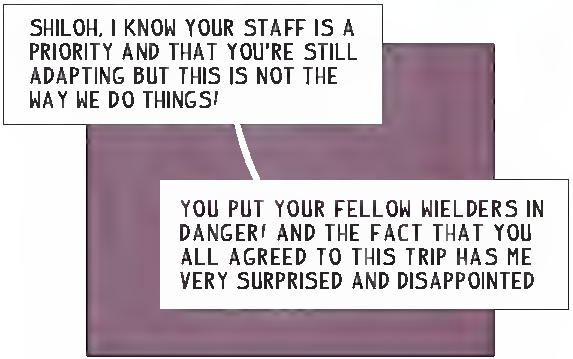
--STOP TALKING NOW

THE NEXT DAY...

IT WAS *CARELESS*. IT WAS *DANGEROUS* AND ALL OF YOU ALMOST DIED. *AGAIN!*

I NEARLY LOST YOU AND I WAS COMPLETELY OBLIVIOUS!

PLEASE, IT WAS MY FAULT. I WANTED TO FIND MY STAFF AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE LIKE YOU SAID BEFORE--


SHILOH, I KNOW YOUR STAFF IS A PRIORITY AND THAT YOU'RE STILL ADAPTING BUT THIS IS NOT THE WAY WE DO THINGS!
YOU PUT YOUR FELLOW WIELDERS IN DANGER! AND THE FACT THAT YOU ALL AGREED TO THIS TRIP HAS ME VERY SURPRISED AND DISAPPOINTED

AND *YOU!* DORIAN, HOW COULD YOU HAVE POSSIBLY THOUGHT THAT THIS WAS A GOOD IDEA?

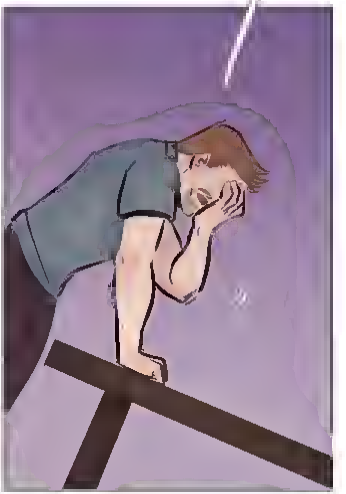
UNCLE ARGUS, HE'S HAD TO DEAL WITH A LOT OF--!
--MATTIE, WAIT, IT'S ALRIGHT

WE ALL FELT THAT SHILOH LOCATING HER WEAPON QUICKLY, AND NEN CONTACTING HIS FAMILY WAS A GOOD IDEA. IT WASN'T, YOU'RE RIGHT.

BUT YOU NEED TO CALM DOWN BEFORE WE CAN TAKE THIS ANY FURTHER... SIR.

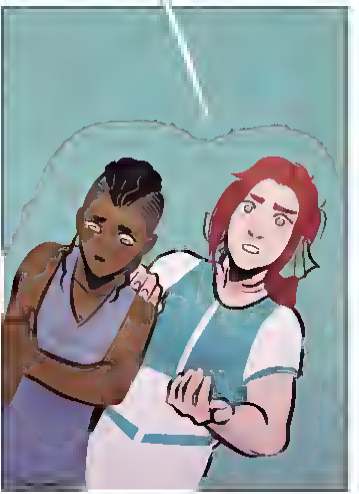
I'M SORRY. I SHOULDN'T HAVE--YOU'RE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM. I AM OR AT LEAST I'M *SUPPOSED* TO BE...

I CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT LOOKING OVER MY SHOULDER OR BLAMING MYSELF

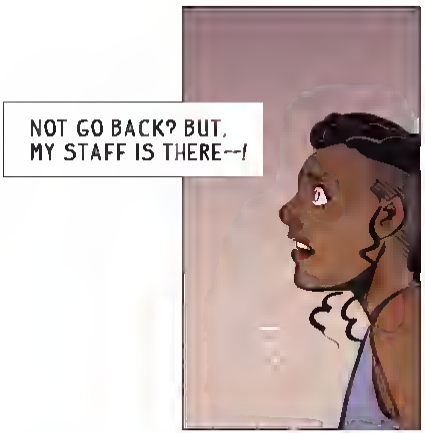


ARGUS WE KNOW YOUR HANDS ARE TIED AND THAT YOU CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE AT ONCE

WE SCREWED UP BUT WE'RE IN ONE PIECE AND RIGHT NOW WE NEED TO LOOK FORWARD



HAVE YOU SPOKEN TO MY BROTHER AT ALL?
IT'S BAD. YOU AND GAWAIN WERE SEEN ABOVE THE CITY AND IT'S THROWN THE MEDIA INTO A FRENZY.
I DID SOME DAMAGE CONTROL. SENT SOME REPORTS TO THALASSA. BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH. AND NOW IT'S TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO GO INTO TOWN ANYMORE.

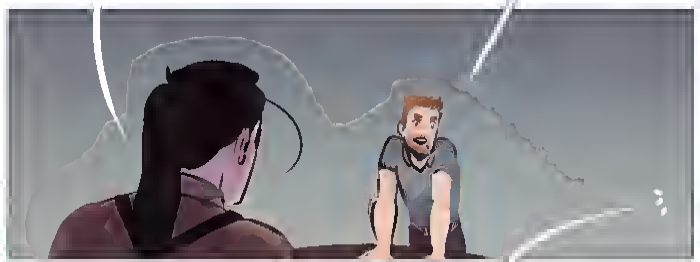

NOT GO BACK? BUT, MY STAFF IS THERE--!

ARGUS, MAN, SHILOH PUT PICTURES IN OUR HEADS OF WHAT NEN WAS SEEIN' IT WAS, LIKE, THE ONLY WAY I KNEW WHERE TO FIND 'EM FAST ENOUGH

I JUST THOUGHT IT WOULD WORK BY CONNECTING TO HIM, AND I COULD FEEL MY WEAPON SO CLOSELY--I WAS DESPERATE

IT DID WORK. FROM THE IMAGE SHILOH SENT US, AND THE FEELINGS SHE'S BEEN GETTING OFF HER STAFF. WE THINK THAT IT COULD BE IN THE AREA OF SYNEDRION HEADQUARTERS.

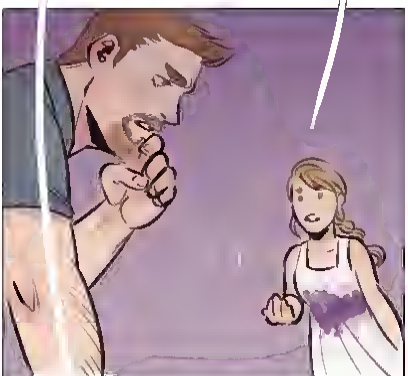
SHILOH. ARE YOU SURE?



I FELT IT THE STRONGEST THERE

THIS IS WORSE THAN I THOUGHT. THE SYNEDRION MUST TRULY BE COMPROMISED...

MAYBE IT'S JUST THE SURROUNDING AREA NOT ACTUALLY INSIDE

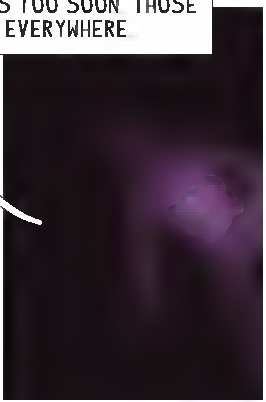


COULD BE I HAVE TO SEARCH FOR THE STAFF MYSELF AND RULE OUT HEADQUARTERS

YOU'LL NEED ME FOR THAT!
YOU *KNOW* YOU DO

YES. WE'LL HAVE TO FIND A WAY FOR ME TO SMUGGLE YOU IN WITHOUT RISKING ALL OF YOUR LIVES IN THE PROCESS.

BUT NOT YET. IT'S TOO SOON. THOSE ASSASSINS ARE EVERYWHERE.



FINE. I'LL WAIT.

I ALSO HAVE A QUESTION TO ASK... YESTERDAY WHEN WE ALL FELT THE SAME THINGS AS NEN...

THIS HAS HAPPENED BEFORE, HASN'T IT?
YES I TOOK A POISONED BLADE TO MY ARM DORIAN DREW THE POISON OUT AND SAVED US
THAT EXPLAINS IT...

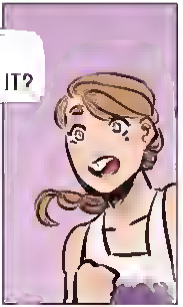
MONTHS AGO I FELL HORRIBLY ILL FOR NO REASON AND EVERYONE THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE

AND THEN I WAS FINE. LIKE NOTHING HAD HAPPENED.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE USE MORE CAUTION NOW MORE THAN EVER.

BEFORE THE INCIDENT WITH NEN, I MANAGED TO DISCOVER A HIDDEN MESSAGE IN THE CHARTER PIECES.

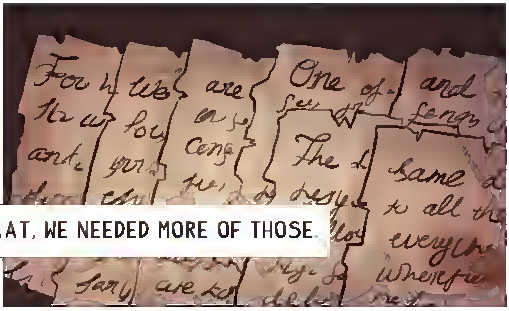
SAM! WHAT IS IT?
HOW DID YOU FIND IT?



IT WAS SO SIMPLE THAT I AM ASHAMED
I DID NOT SEE IT SOONER I WAS EXPECTING
SOMETHING MUCH MORE COMPLEX

OBSERVE THE FIRST WORD OF EACH PIECE

FOR WE ARE ONE AND THE SAME
ONE AND THE SAME? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? THE RACES? THE WIELDERS? PART OF THE RITUAL?
I DO NOT KNOW
ANOTHER MYSTERY?


GREAAAT, WE NEEDED MORE OF THOSE.

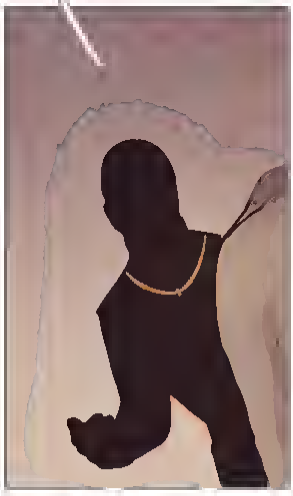
YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT YOU DON'T *REMEMBER*?

ONE MOMENT WE WERE CHASING THEM. THE NEXT WE WERE WAKING UP ON THE FOREST FLOOR IN THE DARKNESS.
WE--WE DON'T KNOW HOW WE GOT THERE.
AND YOU LOST THE TRAIL OF THE WIELDERS.
FOR THAT WE DESERVE TO BE PUNISHED.

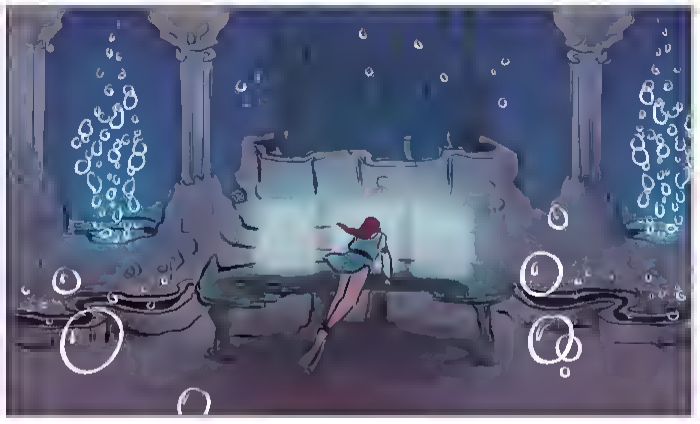
I SHALL DETERMINE YOUR PUNISHMENT AT A LATER TIME. LEAVE US.

I KNOW YOU'RE TIRED. YOUR HEART'S NOT IN THIS ANY MORE AND HASN'T BEEN FOR A LONG TIME.

WOULD FAILURE BE SO TERRIBLE?

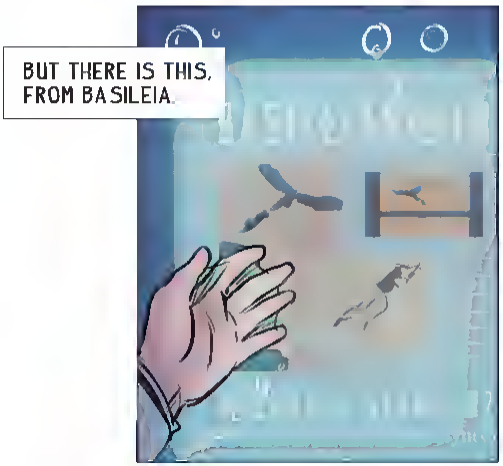


I WAS BORN FOR THIS. IF I AM TO FAIL MY FAMILY THEN I'M NO ONE
I *REFUSE* TO BE NO ONE



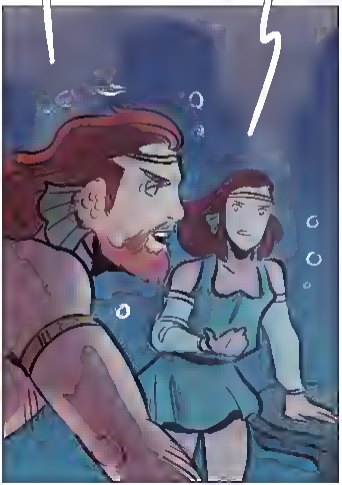
...NEN...

ANY NEWS FROM YOUR BROTHER?
NO, FATHER--


BUT THERE IS THIS, FROM BASILEIA.

IS THAT HIM? WHAT HAS THE SYNEDRION SAID ABOUT THIS?

COUNCILMAN ARGUS SENT A REPORT SAYING THAT THE WIELDERS ARE SAFE BUT HE NEITHER CONFIRMS NOR DENIES THAT IT'S NEN AND THE EIDEN WIELDER

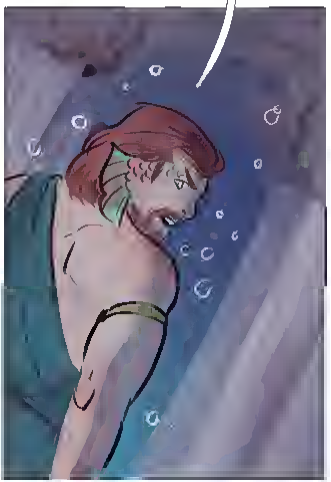


IT CLEARLY IS HIM!
WHO DO THOSE BASILEIANS THINK I AM? A BLIND FOOL? THAT IS THE PRINCE OF THALASSA AND HE IS OBVIOUSLY NOT AS SAFE AS THEY CLAIM

THIS IS THE LAST STRAW. I WILL FIND HIM MYSELF AND BRING HIM BACK IMMEDIATELY.
FATHER, WAIT. THE WIELDERS NEED TO STAY TOGETHER--

--AND YOU WILL CONTACT THE BARONESS, MAKE SURE SHE IS AWARE OF THE NEWS CONCERNING HER OWN WIELDER.

YOU WILL RULE WHILE I AM GONE AND I EXPECT YOU TO PROVE YOURSELF WORTHY...IS THAT UNDERSTOOD?



I...YES, FATHER.